

2026 Pitch-A-Palooza

Liked Pitches by Judge



*Southern
Breeze*

Alabama, Georgia & Florida's Panhandle

SCBWI

Carter Hasegawa's Liked/Ranked Pitches

Quincy Trochue	Graphic Novel	A Capybara Loves Company (I Do Not): A David Attenborough-style narrator explains the notoriously companionable capybara, but this sassy capy wants nothing more than to be left alone. With a whole world of animals to explore, this standalone early reader has series potential.	L	2
Iria Osara	Picture Book	WHY DO BALLOONS POP? takes a simple childhood question and follows it from curiosity to discovery, using everyday balloons to reveal the surprising science behind their fragility. Turning an ordinary object into an invitation to wonder, experiment, and know the world better.	L	
Jennifer Bull	Middle Grade	MY LIFE IN A FISHBOWL: Being thirteen is tough. So, I got a fish. Named him Barkly. Best bad decision ever. Because with Barkly came Fish Facts. With Fish Facts came an advice column. Only problem? They think I'm world-famous fish expert Dr. Finn von Troutenberg. #MG #C	L	1

Deborah Topolski	Middle Grade	In 1978 Chicago, a tween model investigating on-set mysteries using her favorite middle grade whodunits finds her own mysteries more difficult to solve. She must escape the grasp of a classmate who molests her, to protect herself and others, revealing the secret behind her smile.	L
Olivia Fisher	Middle Grade	Juniper Wren's determined to stop the return of the dark days—the months after Mom died. But when she learns Mom's death was a suicide, her efforts unravel with her own monstrous emotions. Until a monster appears in the Pacific Northwest offering healing for protection. #MG #MR	L
Robert Hecksher	Middle Grade	Rachel wishes her brother were normal. Big mistake. Now she's partnered with Boogey, a cute little devil, and Ezekiel, a bumbling archangel in an ADIDAS tracksuit, to undo the damage and outwit a rouge angel before all heaven breaks loose. Middle grade mayhem in Greenville, SC.	L

Toni Rhodes	Middle Grade	When detective-wannabe Jimmy decodes the word FIGHT in his soldier brother's letter, he recruits his comic-book-drawing friend Eddie to FIGHT too, chasing clues about turncoat spies at the Bell Bomber Plant. #WW2 #MG Hybrid prose/comic	L	
Ashley Storm	Middle Grade	#MG #M #P #R A true-crime-obsessed 12yo girl falls for the ghost of a drowned boy, and she's not convinced his death was an accident. Solving the mystery means helping him cross over—and losing her first crush forever.	L	
Leigh Raynor Arndt	Picture Book	Penny leads the best (and only) playground party planning team that PS 243 has ever known. When a classmate visits her “office” (the hedges) to request a birthday celebration for Roger, Penny is determined to pick a party theme that will let Roger's talents shine.	L	

Jasmine Hodges	Young Adult	ARISTOTLE & DANTE X SAL & GABI Carter, 14 & gay, feels at home in his small Southern town. When his parents announce a move, he discovers COPY + PASTE technology to replicate home in his new city. But in sharing his creation, he risks destroying it—and his closest friendship. #MR	L	3
Tomiiko Baker	Picture Book	In the hush of a backyard garden, Amara watches an orb weaver spin a radiant web of silk and light. Wonder replaces fear when she embraces the beautiful strands of her mixed heritage; Amara at the center holding everyone. #PB #POC (Braided Root + The Skull: A Tyrolean Folktale)	L	
Jenn Gaulding	Picture Book	REINDEER REMAINDERS+THE BOOK THAT CAN READ YOUR MIND Step right up for a math-a-magical trick missing only one thing—you! Pick a number & be wowed as THE MATH-A-MAGICIAN stretches the limits of what can be done in a picture book & reads your mind! #PB #IF #STEAM #problemsolving	L	

Ritu Anand's Liked/Ranked Pitches

Alyssa Weiler	Middle Grade	An adopted NYC boy discovers a coded family Bible that helps him solve his identity puzzle. Guided by the secrets it reveals, and by a shapeshifting leprechaun, they follow in his Irish ancestor's footsteps through bogs, to the Blarney Stone and into the 1798 Irish Rebellion.	L	
Kristin Marteness	Picture Book	Fashioned in 1782, the iconic Purple Heart holds a distinct honor among American soldiers. Discover the rich history of this Revolutionary War award, and its evolution, which has been granted to over a million heroes—including exceptional animals like war dogs and horses.	L	
Regina Fallon	Middle Grade	CHILD OUTLAW EDITH LEAPYEAR + HUCK FINN in 1908 12yo medicine show actor steals money & goes on the run to save his sister w/ Down Syndrome from exile to an asylum. Using disguises & falsehoods he finds refuge in a grieving town but fears losing his sister if pursuers	L	
Laine B. Adams	Picture Book	Talkative Talbot, an ADHD-coded snail kid, is often told he's "too much." But one day, the magic garden needs his chatty charms and zany zoomies to calm the crankiest mushroom meltdown—the gnarliest toadstool tantrum—EVER. Talbot isn't too much—he is just right. #PB #F #ND	L	

Quincy Trochue	Picture Book	The Ghost Writer: Clarence haunts the house at the end of Linger Way, and he's bad at it. But when an aging library cabinet crumbles, cracking the spines of long-shelved books and spilling their stories, he learns there's another way to be scary. With words.	L	
Asayla Mulvoy	Picture Book	Lilly's bored ghost grandpa nags her to open his magical trunk of history junk. When Lilly touches an artifact with AL on it, the doorbell rings, & Grandpa welcomes in his new adventure: zombie Abraham Lincoln. But Lilly soon discovers the undead don't belong among the living. #PB	L	
Janet Kelly	Picture Book	I AM AN AMERICAN X SOME OF US. Antoinette was not born here. When immigrant became a negative word, everything changed. She must find within her, the unshakable spirit of her proud community. If she doesn't, who would understand who she is and value her people's contribution?	L	3
Ilana R. Wieder	Picture Book	In MARBLE AND COCO, a 455 word picture book, Coco's heart thump-thumps through his chest when he's anxious. Marble's wool shivers when she's nervous. Can the special bond between a boy and a sheep help them find their way to breathing mindfully and overcoming their anxieties?	L	
Nina Exene Wood	Picture Book	Bird seed? Ruby is pretty sure birds don't grow from seeds, but she must know for sure. She plants some bird seed, just in case, and (not so) patiently waits. Curiosity takes flight as the natural rhythm of bird life cycles blooms before her eyes. #pb	L	

Tomiiko Baker	Picture Book	In the hush of a backyard garden, Amara watches an orb weaver spin a radiant web of silk and light. Wonder replaces fear when she embraces the beautiful strands of her mixed heritage; Amara at the center holding everyone. #PB #POC (Braided Root + The Skull: A Tyrolean Folktale)	L	1
Dyan Crawford	Picture Book	THUNDERCAKE 5yo Rachel is too afraid of the night storm raging outside to stay in her own bed. When her sister tells her about their dad's job as a symphony conductor and compares the booming noises to a concert, thunderstorms become music to her ears! #PB	L	
Andy Wowor	Picture Book	Cautious Ego and daring Serena sneak into a moonlit Chinese temple to say goodbye to his late grandfather. When they unseal a hopping vampire, they must play high-stakes hide-and-seek, discovering love is the strongest talisman of all. Includes back matter. #PB #AD #F #POC #OWN	L	
Dana Tantia	Picture Book	At her new school in America, Kavya's brightest kurta, favorite choodiyan, and shiniest jhumke attract whispers instead of praise. She hides the traditions she loves. With help from her teacher and Mama, she begins to see her colors differently. Can she share them proudly?	L	Honorable mention
Danielle Portera	Picture Book	SWIIIRL! POP! Lonely Whimsy casts a spell to look like the other kids...and finally fits in! But when the group bullies a timid troll, the young witch reveals her magic, risks her new friendships, and discovers she isn't the only one hiding behind a disguise. #PB #RY #ND	L	

Toni Rhodes	Middle Grade	BOY SPY HUNTERS OF AMERICA When detective-wannabe Jimmy decodes the word FIGHT in his soldier brother's letter, he recruits his comic-book-drawing friend Eddie to FIGHT too, chasing clues about turncoat spies at the Bell Bomber Plant.	L	
Shelli Johannes	Middle Grade	An underwater kingdom. A rebellious princess. A forbidden water magic tied to ancient evil. Izla of Aquia would rather explore with her octopus than wear a crown. When a cursed relic awakens her magic, she must choose between duty & destiny, unaware a deep-sea danger hunts her.	L	
Lane Polak	Picture Book	In the whimsical land of Ogden, words don't just describe the world—they transform it. When the mischievous Yipyaks twist language into chaos, only the mysterious Momite can restore harmony. A playful picture book about how words can shape, divide, or bring us back together.	L	2
Patricia Cruzan	Picture Book	A school car ride changes when Madison feels threatened after an animal appears. The creature's eyes and size are huge, and there is no weapon for the family to use if the animal attacks. Will Madison overcome her fear and help her sister?	L	
Gail Handler	Picture Book	Losing sight, Gertie must overcome her fear of dogs & learn to trust a guide dog. Juniper, a spunky trained Lab guide dog, must prove her skills are solid. Will Gertie feel safe? And are they a good match? TEAM JUNIPER--dual POV, young #MG #OWN #Humor. Comp: JESSICA & RESCUE	L	

Claire Tattersfield's Liked/Ranked Pitches

Barbara Kimmel	Picture Book	SALMON SAYS SLEEP transforms bedtime routines into a playful follow-along game... until BEAR pops in and surprises the little fishies. This rhyming picture book is filled with humor, movement, repetition, and a satisfying wind-down to sleep. #PB #RY	L
Jen Stambolsky	Young Adult	BeetleJuice x Clueless: When 16 y/o wannabe influencer Elle is recruited by a teen ghost to resolve an ancestral grudge, she does it for the clout. But as her undead family drama draws attn online, she wishes it stayed in the grave. #YA	L
J y n H a l l	Picture Book	“THE PANTS GO MARCHING one by one, the Little One shouts, ‘My belt’s undone!’” This young #PB teaches early math concepts with a dash of SEL & a deluge of silliness. A twist on the classic song, this counting adventure, marches on to fun—“Hurrah! Hurrah!” #Novelty	L
Sheri Bentley	Picture Book	In HOW MANY TIMES CAN WE READ THIS BOOK, Cole is determined to hear his favorite tongue-twister book 100 times, but his nonstop requests send Mom and their read-alouds into a tongue-tangling spiral.	L
Melissa J Miles	Picture Book	THE GREATEST X THE LAST STAND A young girl’s grandpa is the ONLY DOCTOR IN THE VALLEY—for the young, old, and not-yet-born. She discovers the vital role he plays, providing healthcare to a rural Appalachian community where payment is often made with bartering. Lush, lyrical #PB	L

Jenn Lee Frances	Young Adult	Grief-stricken Simone summoned her murdered cousin, but Nina returned as a malevolent spirit, now known as #TheEastRiverWraith who drowns deserving boys. She'd rather Nina be a vengeful ghost than lose her again, but must keep her from taking her wrath out on the wrong boy #YA #H	L	
Christina Shawn	Picture Book	PROPER BADGER + CARING FOR YOUR LION Not-so-proper-Penelope follows all the instructions on HOW TO HOST A PROPER TEA PARTY, but her unexpected animal guests are wild & unruly. When her perfect plans are torn to pieces, she finds that releasing her inner party animal is more fun.	L	
Maria Linn	Middle Grade	DANTE'S INFERNO+BLACK MIRROR 11YO Danni craves her chronically online Dad's attention. But when he literally vanishes into his phone, Danni must follow, descending thru a devilish virtual world to rescue him...or be doomed to spend eternity in a social media hellscape. #MG #F	L	
Sherry Ellis	Picture Book	When the Brown family sleeps through one farm chore after another, a flock of overworked chickens keeps the farm running—until Sunday when they decide enough is enough. #PB	L	1
Mariah Weber	Picture Book	GO, DOG! GO! + PRINCESS DONUT In the face of overwhelming love and encouragement, the only appropriate response is a resounding "No", of course. GO, CAT! NO. is a rhyming picture book parody, featuring the cats we adore despite their general ambivalence towards us. #PB #RY	L	

Debbie D'Aurelio	Picture Book	A boy and his father share ideas about the vastness of the galaxy. With a bird's-eye view on each spread, readers visualize their own place in the universe, watching Earth become smaller and smaller as their imagination stretches farther into space. #PB. Global perspectives.	L	2
Candice Elrod	Young Adult	An amateur teen sleuth receives a mysterious message about her biological parents leading her on a road trip alongside her best friends, but when her quest turns dangerous, she'll have to decide if she's willing to risk their lives to solve her greatest mystery yet.#YA#M#R#C	L	
Lisa Lowe Stauffer	Picture Book	IN THE TAMARINDO TREE At the edge of the sea where clouds are spun... In Costa Rica, a tree becomes a community as animals wake, climb, stretch, eat, and sing in its branches until rainy season breaks up the party with an "aguacero." #PB #RY pantoum #NF back matter	L	
Julie Hauswirth	Picture Book	Hugo knows his new house is haunted. His parents don't! They love the (haunted) yard and (haunted) décor. Hugo doesn't! When the house swallows his parents, Hugo must brave fancy-dish frisbee, evil laugh contests, and slippery slopes to find them and bring them haunted home. #PB	L	

Kimberly Delude	Picture Book	Snollygoster gets replaced in the dictionary to make room for social media. So the two words set out to find a new place for him in this humorously true and fact filled romp that's perfect for fans of The Scrambled States of America and Pluto Gets a Call.	L	3
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Lindsey Aduskevich's Liked/Ranked Pitches

Susan Burnash	Picture Book	When Santa's Christmas run reveals more screens and fewer elf-made toys, he vows to close the North Pole forever. But while he rests, Mrs. Claus launches a CHRISTMAS REBOOT to pause busy screens, deliver some old-fashioned, handmade fun, and save her beloved home. #PB #HOL #RY	L	
kassandra ayala	Picture Book	At the shelter, everything is different. There's no Dad, teddy, or traditions. His art teacher states that this "home" is their brave place, but Eli still feels trapped in choppy waters. But as he immerses himself, Eli finds that he can create courage in his own way. #PB #LX	L	
Jenn Gaulding	Picture Book	REINDEER REMAINDERS+THE BOOK THAT CAN READ YOUR MIND Step right up for a math-a-magical trick missing only one thing—you! Pick a number & be wowed as THE MATH-A-MAGICIAN stretches the limits of what can be done in a picture book & reads your mind! #PB #IF #STEAM #problemsolving	L	3
Olivia Fisher	Middle Grade	Juniper Wren's determined to stop the return of the dark days—the months after Mom died. But when she learns Mom's death was a suicide, her efforts unravel with her own monstrous emotions. Until a monster appears in the Pacific Northwest offering healing for protection. #MG #MR	L	
Ann Stone	Middle Grade	The Witch & the Robot: A 12 yo girl, outlawed for her magic, teams up with a robot, but if they can't save 5 little girls from death, she will be caged & he will be enslaved in a post-apocalyptic world where men & technology rule & caring will kill you. #MG #YA #SF #F/AD	L	HM
Ann Stone	Young Adult	CINDERELLA x DRAGONS Betrayed by love, threatened with a forced marriage, framed for cattle theft by her stepsister, 16yo Sarah flees, right to the arms of a dragon shifter. They and their friends must find & save the herd before the town hangs her. #YA #R #F #FTA.	L	
Kimberly Delude	Picture Book	Snollygoster gets replaced in the dictionary to make room for social media. So the two words set out to find a new place for him in this humorously true and fact filled romp that's perfect for fans of The Scrambled States of America and Pluto Gets a Call.	L	

Jenn Lee Frances	Young Adult	Grief-stricken Simone summoned her murdered cousin, but Nina returned as a malevolent spirit, now known as #TheEastRiverWraith who drowns deserving boys. She'd rather Nina be a vengeful ghost than lose her again, but must keep her from taking her wrath out on the wrong boy #YA #H	L	2
Debbie D'Aurelio	Picture Book	A boy and his father share ideas about the vastness of the galaxy. With a bird's-eye view on each spread, readers visualize their own place in the universe, watching Earth become smaller and smaller as their imagination stretches farther into space. #PB. Global perspectives.	L	
Monica Sanchez	Middle Grade	When 12-year-old Thalia, her best friend, and a prickly fierce new girl get sucked through a portal to Olympus, they must battle Mnemosyne, goddess of memory and mother of the Muses, who is desperate for the girls' souls—the last three souls she needs to awaken her daughters.	L	
Caroline Luzzatto	Picture Book	Claws scrape the floor during math. Something growls at indoor recess. There are toothmarks on your pencil, but you don't chew your pencil. A monster lurks at school, and once it's too big to ignore, only one thing will satisfy the beast – and it isn't soggy cafeteria peas! #PB	L	
Candice Elrod	Young Adult	An amateur teen sleuth receives a mysterious message about her biological parents leading her on a road trip alongside her best friends, but when her quest turns dangerous, she'll have to decide if she's willing to risk their lives to solve her greatest mystery yet.#YA#M#R#C	L	
Sharon Shepard	Picture Book	Queen Lympha's Clean-Up Team battles infection, inflammation, and invisibility in the microscopic forest world under Lucy's skin. THE GRUMBLY LYMPH GNOMES AND THE SKINNED KNEE is a lymphatic system fable updating THE CIRCULATORY STORY and turning it INSIDE OUT. #PB #MR #IF #OWN	L	
Dyan Crawford	Picture Book	THUNDERCAKE 5yo Rachel is too afraid of the night storm raging outside to stay in her own bed. When her sister tells her about their dad's job as a symphony conductor and compares the booming noises to a concert, thunderstorms become music to her ears! #PB	L	

Cyndi Harvell	Picture Book	Street Cat has the purr-fect system for getting tasty meals from the neighborhood families, but he won't admit he wants to belong. When a local gets nosy, she discovers what's going on beneath the fluff. STREET CAT HAS A SECRET is a funny, heartwarming tale of found family.	L	
Kristin Marteness	Picture Book	Fashioned in 1782, the iconic Purple Heart, holds a distinct honor among American soldiers. Discover the rich history of this Revolutionary War award, and its evolution, which has been granted to over a million heroes—including exceptional animals like war dogs and horses.	L	
Jen Stambolsky	Picture Book	What kind of harebrained solutions will help Freddie Alligator remove a stuck booger from his nose? Spoiler alert: It's SNOT trampolines, somersaults, and jump scares! The support of a good friend though? That's nothing to sneeze about!	L	1

Natalia Vázquez Torres'

Liked/Ranked Pitches

Taylor Girard	Picture Book	If pirates get marooned in your neighborhood, you may be excited to befriend them. But when they plunder lunches, dig up soccer fields & make you walk the plank, will they ever stop wreaking havoc? Arrgh! If only these scallywags could behave, but PIRATES DO NOT HAVE MANNERS. #PB	L	Honorable mention
Lisa Lowe Stauffer	Picture Book	BOOGIE RAY Stingray Ray is too flat for finball, too slow for tuna tag, and his thin tail isn't strong enough for dolphin dancing. "Aw, crabcakes!" So when he sees humans boogie boarding, it looks like the perfect sport for his body. If only he had a board! #PB #humor	L	1
Sarah Hammond	Picture Book	HOW TO BE SCARY When an aspiring Scary Monster fails to frighten Dog, the playful pup helps her make people jump: BOO! But Monster balks when she has to spook solo until she realizes she has a scarily useful new skill & a monstrosly good friend too. #PB SCOOBY DOO x FRANK & BERT	L	
Janet Kelly	Picture Book	I AM AN AMERICAN X SOME OF US. Antoinette was not born here. When immigrant became a negative word, everything changed. She must find within her, the unshakable spirit of her proud community. If she doesn't, who would understand who she is and value her people's contribution?	L	
Robin Brett Wechsle	Picture Book	While stuck inside Addie asks Pop-Pop for a story. When his tall tale of how the seasons began, from a hot, cramped equator to a raucous animal romp becomes too far-fetched Addie reveals her knowledge. HOW WE HAVE THE SEASONS offers a fun way to learn about the seasons' changing.	L	
Taylor Woolley	Picture Book	In LEON'S CLOSE SHAVE, Leon the lobster dreams of becoming a barber. The trouble? Everyone around is bald as a sailboat's bottom! When his search for clients lands him in a lobster trap, Leon must snip and scheme his way out of being served for supper. Don't Eat Eustace + Umami	L	

ollie Wolverton	Picture Book	Beau loves his bear-y thick fur...until a huge honey mishap forces him to buzz his fuzz. A BARE BEAR? How embarrassing! Pelt potions and disguises fail, but he can't hide his hide forever. Will he be the butt of jokes or find that true pals always have his back—even if it's bare?	L	3
Carrie Logsdon McC	Picture Book	What happens when a tiger gets a toothache?Is a dolphin's discolored dentition disastrous?Do zoo animals wake up mid-procedure?Join Dr. Carrie as she cares for her patients in OPEN WIDE:A LOOK INSIDE THE WILD WORLD OF ZOO DENTISTRY,a #NF#PB for ages 5-9 written by a zoo dentist.	L	
Monica Sanchez	Middle Grade	When 12-year-old Thalia, her best friend, and a prickly fierce new girl get sucked through a portal to Olympus, they must battle Mnemosyne, goddess of memory and mother of the Muses, who is desperate for the girls' souls—the last three souls she needs to awaken her daughters.	L	
Amanda Paniagua	Picture Book	THE NAME OF THE JUMP: Jabari Jumps x Five Words That Are Mine. Ari makes friends laugh w/ crazy names for their saltos off the diving board. But when it's her turn, courage sinks like a cannonball. Ari must find her inner valentía or face starting 2nd grade una gallina. #PB	L	
J y n H a l l	Picture Book	When 2 determined sisters tackle the plastic trash suffocating Bali's paradise, they find it's impossible...on their own. WAVES OF CHANGE chronicles Melati & Isabel Wijsen's discovery of their youthful, powerful voices as they struggle to change their island. And the world. #PBBio	L	
Gretchen Sherrill	Middle Grade	When environmental justice knights draft Dodge Vaughn, 11, into their squire after-school club, he's sucked into a riddle-solving quest to save glow-in-the-dark algae by stopping a conman and dark forces of greed from extinguishing a bioluminescent bay's shining light forever.	L	

Jessica Cruz	Middle Grade	For centuries, the long-lost tomb of Cleopatra has remained one of history's greatest mysteries. But attorney-turned-archaeologist Kathleen Martinez has a unique, bold theory about its location, and she's determined to prove it in this nonfiction book featuring a Latina in STEM.	L	
Jean Grabow	Young Adult	16yo violinist Sonia's musical success comes from her tutor's magic. Now, he's the conductor at summer music camp—and threatens her ability if she fails to recruit her friend as his student. Will she pull another under his spell or find music that can mute his dark magic?#YA#P	L	2

Kat Brzozowski's Liked/Ranked Pitches

Jasmine Hodges	Young Adult	ARISTOTLE & DANTE X SAL & GABI Carter, 14 & gay, feels at home in his small Southern town. When his parents announce a move, he discovers COPY + PASTE technology to replicate home in his new city. But in sharing his creation, he risks destroying it—and his closest friendship. #MR	L	2nd
Julie Hauswirth	Picture Book	Hugo knows his new house is haunted. His parents don't! They love the (haunted) yard and (haunted) décor. Hugo doesn't! When the house swallows his parents, Hugo must brave fancy-dish frisbee, evil laugh contests, and slippery slopes to find them and bring them haunted home. #PB	L	
Heather Morris	Middle Grade	OLIVETTI x WISHTREE When tenderhearted 10yo Melody befriends an old, upright piano named HARDMAN, she uncovers a hundred-year-old secret tucked inside that leads her on a journey to save her new friend, while also restoring music and hope to her struggling family. #MG #MR	L	
Amanda Fletcher	Picture Book	LADY PANCAKE SERIES x MONTY PYTHON Sir Hamster-Lot the Brave, a class pet with delusions of grandeur, protects his realm from evil ogres. But when an unusual “damsel” protests her own rescue, this Knight in Furry Armor must decide if he’s willing to share the hero spotlight. #PB	L	1st
Olivia Fisher	Middle Grade	Juniper Wren’s determined to stop the return of the dark days—the months after Mom died. But when she learns Mom’s death was a suicide, her efforts unravel with her own monstrous emotions. Until a monster appears in the Pacific Northwest offering healing for protection. #MG #MR	L	

Danielle Render Turn	Picture Book	Like the leaves on the trees or the path of the breeze, life is always changing. Yet through life's twists and turns, a mother's love remains. In THE SONG OF CHANGE, a mother's steadying song carries her child through the many stages of life. #PB	L	
Leah Nowicki	Young Adult	18 y/o Penna spent years burying her pain. Now thrust into a realm where trauma creates literal demons, her voice holds the magic to destroy the creatures, mend her family & restore her own mind. But healing means exposing her darkest secret: her words killed her sister #YA #F #C	L	
Ashley Storm	Middle Grade	#MG #M #P #R A true-crime-obsessed 12yo girl falls for the ghost of a drowned boy, and she's not convinced his death was an accident. Solving the mystery means helping him cross over—and losing her first crush forever.	L	
Debbie D'Aurelio	Picture Book	A boy and his father share ideas about the vastness of the galaxy. With a bird's-eye view on each spread, readers visualize their own place in the universe, watching Earth become smaller and smaller as their imagination stretches farther into space. #PB. Global perspectives.	L	3rd
Shelli Johannes	Middle Grade	An underwater kingdom. A rebellious princess. A forbidden water magic tied to ancient evil. Izla of Aquia would rather explore with her octopus than wear a crown. When a cursed relic awakens her magic, she must choose between duty & destiny, unaware a deep-sea danger hunts her.	L	Honorable mention



That's a wrap for Pitch-A-Palooza 2026.

Thank you to our judges and to everyone who submitted a pitch for consideration.

Congratulations on each of these liked pitches. We're cheering from the stands for all of you!